

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 IO-14  
AF-10 HA-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /081 W  
-----059717 101931Z /73

O 101825Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6663  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04445

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, GW, US  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S COMMENTS ON  
USG-FRG RELATIONS MARCH 9, 1978

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS CONTAIN THIS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL  
TRANSLATION OF SELECTED REMARKS WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER  
GENSCHER (FDP) MADE IN THE COURSE OF THE MARCH 9  
BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON THE STATE OF THE GERMAN NATION.

BEGIN TEXT

IN CONSIDERING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WE  
MUST ALSO DEAL VERY CAREFULLY WITH OUR RELATIONS WITH  
OUR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS IN ALL STATES OF THE WORLD,  
BUT ESPECIALLY WITH THOSE PARTNERS WHICH ARE OF PAR-  
TICULAR IMPORTANCE TO US. THIS IS WHY I ASK MY  
COLLEAGUE, COUNT HUYN--A SUBSEQUENT SPEAKER CAN PERHAPS  
CORRECT HIM A BIT--TO GIVE SOME ADDITIONAL THOUGHT AS  
TO WHETHER ONE CAN JUSTIFIABLY SPEAK OF A PARALYSIS OF  
AMERICAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS AFRICA.

(DEPUTY AMREHN, CDU/CSU): BUT THERE ISN'T ANY\*

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YOU SAY THAT THERE IS NO AMERICAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS  
AFRICA. THAT ALMOST AMOUNTS TO UNDERSCORING WHAT COUNT  
HUYN SAID. AT THIS POINT, COLLEAGUE AMREHN, I HAVE TO  
TELL YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT WE  
HIGHLY APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THE UNITED STATES  
IS ENERGETICALLY WORKING FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION, E.G.,  
TO THE RHODESIA PROBLEM. EVEN YOUR SIDE HAS JUST NOW

RECOGNIZED THAT THIS IS SO. WE HIGHLY APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT WE--TOGETHER WITH OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS, WITH OUR BRITISH FRIENDS, WITH OUR FRENCH FRIENDS, WITH OUR CANADIAN FRIENDS, AS MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL--SUPPORT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE NAMIBIA PROBLEM AS WELL. THIS IS CERTAINLY NOT A PARALYZED AMERICAN POLICY. THIS IS AN ACTIVE AMERICAN POLICY FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS IN AFRICA WHICH ALL OF US WANT. WE ARE HAPPY THAT WE CAN DO THIS, WITH THE AMERICANS AND NOT WITHOUT THEM.

(APPLAUSE FROM THE FDP AND SPD. COUNT HUYN (CDU/CSU) ASKS TO POSE ANOTHER QUESTION.)

I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU, COLLEAGUE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ALSO ASK YOU NOT TO UNDERESTIMATE THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS SOUGHT, ESPECIALLY IN RECENT MONTHS, THROUGH VERY DISCREET ACTIVITY, TO PREVENT A DEVELOPMENT IN THE VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA WHICH WOULD ULTIMATELY LEAD TO MAJOR POLITICAL CHANGES IN AFRICA. ACCORDING TO ALL THAT WE HAVE LEARNED, IT SEEMS THAT THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THIS, TOO, IS NOT A SIGN OF A PARALYSIS IN AMERICAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS AFRICA, BUT RATHER AN INDICATION OF AN ACTIVE AMERICAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS AFRICA.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE MENTIONED THIS FOR THE SIMPLE REASON, AND I DECLARE IN THE NAME OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT--I AM SURE THAT COLLEAGUE HUYN'S QUESTION WILL CLARIFY THIS IN THE NAME OF HIS BUNDESTAG GROUP) BECAUSE I ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO THE FACT THAT THERE BE NO DIFFERENCES OF VIEW OVER THIS QUESTION IN THIS HOUSE AND IN WORLD PUBLIC OPINION--THAT FOR US THE RELATIONSHIP OF TRUST WITH THE UNITED STATES IS ONE OF THE MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCES IN OUR CAPACITY TO ACT AND MANEUVER IN THE FOREIGN POLICY FIELD. I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH GREAT CONCERN CERTAIN DISCUSSIONS IN THE PUBLIC, AND ALSO IN THE PRESS, INDICATING THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS BETWEEN THESE TWO IMPORTANT PARTNERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, LET US DEAL VERY CAREFULLY WITH THESE QUESTIONS, ALSO IN OUR CHOICE OF WORDS, SO AS NOT TO GIVE RISE TO THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LARGE BASIC CONSENSUS IS LACKING IN ANY WAY. I WANTED TO SAY THIS IN ORDER TO MAKE CLEAR THE POSITION OF THE FEDERAL

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O 101825Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6664  
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. I ASK COLLEAGUE HUYN FOR HIS  
INDULGENCE. I WANTED TO FINISH THIS FIRST. BUT NOW I  
AM AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

COUNT HUYN (CDU/CSU): MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, ARE WE  
AGREED THAT IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT--PERHAPS BE-  
CAUSE OF THE VERY FACT THAT, AS I SEE IT, IT IS, OR  
SHOULD BE, UNDISPUTED IN THIS HOUSE THAT THE UNITED  
STATES IS A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT OR THE MOST IMPORTANT  
PARTNER OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN THE  
FOREIGN POLICY FIELD--THAT, IF THERE EXIST IN CERTAIN  
RESPECTS DIVERGENCIES OR WEAKNESSES OF POLICY, ONE SHOULD  
FRANKLY TELL THIS TO HIS PARTNER, AND THAT THIS APPLIES  
TO BOTH SIDES? FOR I BELIEVE THAT WE CAN ASSUME THAT  
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CERTAINLY DOES NOT AGREE WITH,  
SAY, THE STATEMENTS ANDREW YOUNG MADE ABOUT THE CUBAN  
PRESENCE IN ANGOLA.

GENSCHER: COLLEAGUE, TO BEGIN WITH I WOULD LIKE VERY  
MUCH TO EMPHASIZE AND TO CALL TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS  
HOUSE WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GERMAN-  
AMERICAN RELATIONS. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT ABOUT  
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WHICH I HAVE NEVER HAD ANY DOUBT BUT WHICH MIGHT BE DOUBTFUL TO OTHERS WHO ARE LISTENING SOMEWHERE. YOU MADE THIS POINT CLEAR ON BEHALF OF YOUR BUNDESTAG GROUP. AMONG PARTNERS THERE MUST OF COURSE EXIST THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSION, INCLUDING PUBLIC DISCUSSION. THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THIS. BUT IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTY TO POINT OUT WHERE I SEE CERTAIN THINGS IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN SOME MEMBERS OF THE BUNDESTAG. I DENY THAT THERE IS A PARALYSIS OF AMERICAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS AFRICA. I MUST CONTRADICT A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT--AS WAS MADE IN A REMARK A FEW MINUTES AGO--THAT THERE IS NO AMERICAN POLICY VIS-A-VIS AFRICA. I KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, AS WE ARE, AND, TOGETHER WITH US, IS SEEKING SOLUTIONS. MORE SHOULD NOT BE SAID ON THIS POINT.

DR. MARX (CDU/CSU): MR. FOREIGN MINISTER, BECAUSE WE WERE ALWAYS AGREED ON THIS POINT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU WHETHER YOU PERSONALLY WILL CONTINUE YOUR POLITICAL EFFORTS, NOT ONLY TO INSURE THAT--AS YOU JUST SAID--IN CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER FOUR WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL PEACEFUL CONDITIONS ARE ESTABLISHED IN RHODESIA AND SOUTHWEST AFRICA/NAMIBIA, BUT ALSO THAT THIS IS DONE ON THE ONLY DURABLE BASIS, THAT IS, RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLES LIVING IN THESE TWO STATES?

GENSCHER: COLLEAGUE, IT IS VERY EASY FOR ME TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION, NAMELY, WITH THE WORD YES.

(DR. MARX (CDU/CSU): I THANK YOU VERY MUCH.)

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WHILE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON TWO PROBLEMS THAT MUST ACUTELY CONCERN US IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF AFRICA. AS FAR AS DEVELOPMENTS IN RHODESIA ARE CONCERNED, WE SUPPORT THE EFFORTS AND POSITION OF OUR AMERICAN AND BRITISH FRIENDS WHO HAVE ASSUMED A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH THEIR INITIATIVE AND WHO, WITH THIS INITIATIVE, HAVE BEGUN A PROCESS (OF DEVELOPMENT) IN RHODESIA. I ASK ALL MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSE TO REFLECT SERIOUSLY ON WHETHER THIS AMERICAN-BRITISH INITIATIVE HAD FROM THE OUTSET THE APPROVAL OF ALL MEMBERS OF THIS HOUSE, AND WHETHER IT DID NOT ALSO MEET WITH CRITICISM.

(COMMENTS FROM THE SPD: VERY TRUE:)

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED THIS INITIATIVE FROM  
THE VERY BEGINNING, TRUSTING THAT RESULTS WOULD BE  
PRODUCED BY THE GREAT MORAL PERSUASIVENESS, ESPECIALLY  
IN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS.  
WE SHALL SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES AND  
GREAT BRITAIN IN THIS QUESTION, ALSO BY OUR CONTRIBU-  
TIONS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. END TEXT.

DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE.  
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